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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 9, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 4 totaled an estimated 16.8 billion ton-miles, 3.0 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 14 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 251.7 billion ton-miles, 1.0 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 4 totaled 396,732 cars, 5.2 percent below 1980, and 12.5 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 2.9 percent in the West, but down 14.2 percent in the East and 8.2 percent in the South. The sharp declines in the East and South are attributable to the impact of the first week of the coal miners' strike.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 14 of the 21 commodity groups were up. Coal loadings were down 32.6 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended March 28 totaled 33,699 cars, down 5.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 61,296 trailers and/or containers, down 5.6 percent from last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 13 weeks of the year was 413,043 cars, 5.8 percent lower than last year, and 748,038 trailers and/or containers, down 5.9 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/4/81:

	Loadings in Week ended April 4, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,369	D	1,800	6.9	I	1,585	7.0
Other farm products	3,003	D	98	3.2	D	80	2.6
Metallic ores	28,621	I	3,509	14.0	I	1,096	4.0
Coal	70,320	D	33,944	32.6	D	57,743	45.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,987	I	83	0.6	I	421	3.4
Nonmetallic minerals	13,794	I	297	2.2	I	501	3.8
Grain mill products	14,884	D	124	0.8	D	345	2.3
Food and kindred products	15,934	D	912	5.4	D	925	5.5
Primary forest products	18,546	I	495	2.7	D	644	3.4
Lumber and wood products except furniture	9,374	I	909	10.7	D	516	5.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,869	I	116	0.6	I	185	0.9
Chemicals and allied products	29,890	I	2,352	8.5	D	1,356	4.3
Petroleum products	4,931	D	771	13.5	D	428	8.0
Stone, clay and glass products	14,955	D	138	0.9	D	383	2.5
Coke	6,321	I	328	5.5	I	54	0.9
Metals and products	18,780	I	317	1.7	I	605	3.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,224	I	3,227	20.2	D	512	2.6
Waste and scrap materials	13,279	I	777	6.2	I	98	0.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,508	I	146	1.3	D	45	0.4
All other carloads	44,883	I	3,254	7.8	I	1,633	3.8
LCL traffic	260	I	53	32.0	D	24	8.5
Total Cars Loaded	396,732	D	21,914	5.2	D	56,823	12.5
Corresponding week of 1980	418,646						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (14 weeks)	6,018,152	6,158,525	D	2.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
13 Weeks cumulative	234.9	233.1	I	0.8
Week ended April 4	16.8	16.3	I	3.0
14 Weeks cumulative	251.7	249.3	I	1.0

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